

CLAIMS

- 1 1. An electrical cover plate comprising:
 - 2 a base comprising a planar member;
 - 3 a first set of removable tabs comprising at least one removable tab, the first set of
 - 4 removable tabs connected to the base so that removal of the first set of removable tabs
 - 5 forms a first set aperture, the first set aperture being bounded by a first set aperture
 - 6 periphery line; and
 - 7 a second set of removable tabs comprising at least one removable tab, the second
 - 8 set of removable tabs connected to the base so that removal of the second set of
 - 9 removable tabs forms a second set aperture, the second set aperture being bounded by a
 - 10 second set aperture periphery line;
 - 11 wherein the first set aperture periphery line and the second set aperture periphery
 - 12 line intersect.
- 1 2. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein the first set of removable tabs and the second
- 2 set of removable tabs have at least one removable tab in common.
- 1 3. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein the first set of removable tabs is bounded by a
- 2 first tab set periphery line, wherein the second set of removable tabs is bounded by a
- 3 second tab set periphery line, and wherein the first tab set periphery line intersects the
- 4 second tab set periphery line.
- 1 4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one tab of the first set of removable
- 2 tabs and at least one tab of the second set of removable tabs are integral with the base.

1 5. The cover plate of claim 4, wherein each tab of the first set of removable tabs is
2 integral with the base and each tab of the second set of removable tabs is integral with the
3 base.

1 6. The cover plate of claim 5, wherein each tab of the first set of removable tabs is
2 connected to the base by at least one grooved connector and each tab of the second set of
3 removable tabs is connected to the base by at least one grooved connector.

1 7. The cover plate of claim 5, wherein each tab of the first set of removable tabs is
2 connected to the base by at least one connecting tab and each tab of the second set of
3 removable tabs is connected to the base by at least one connecting tab.

1 8. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein the first set aperture is shaped and positioned
2 to receive an electrical socket.

1 9. The cover plate of claim 8, wherein the first set aperture is shaped and positioned
2 to receive a single round electrical socket.

1 10. The cover plate of claim 8, wherein the second set aperture is shaped and
2 positioned to receive an electrical socket of a duplex outlet.

1 11. The cover plate of claim 8, wherein the second set aperture is shaped and
2 positioned to receive a ground-fault circuit interrupt socket.

1 12. The cover plate of claim 1, wherein the base defines a head aperture that is shaped
2 and positioned to receive the head of a fastener and a shank aperture that is shaped and
3 positioned to receive the shank of the fastener, but not the head of the fastener.

1 13. An electrical cover plate comprising:

2 a base comprising a planar member, the planar member defining an initial aperture

3 passing through the base;

4 a first set of removable tabs comprising at least one removable tab, the first set of

5 removable tabs connected to the base and bordering the initial aperture so that removal of

6 the first set of removable tabs converts the initial aperture to a first set aperture that is

7 substantially circular, the first set of removable tabs being bounded by a first tab set

8 periphery line; and

9 a second set of removable tabs comprising at least one removable tab, the second

10 set of removable tabs connected to the base and bordering the initial aperture so that

11 removal of the second set of removable tabs converts the initial aperture to a second set

12 aperture, the second set of removable tabs being bounded by a second tab set periphery

13 line;

14 wherein the first tab set periphery line and the second tab set periphery line

15 intersect.

1 14. The cover plate of claim 13, wherein the first set of removable tabs and the second

2 set of removable tabs have at least one removable tab in common.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein each tab of the first set of removable tabs is

2 integral with the base and each tab of the second set of removable tabs is integral with the

3 base.

1 16. The cover plate of claim 15, wherein each tab of the first set of removable tabs is

2 connected to the base by at least one grooved connector and each tab of the second set of

3 removable tabs is connected to the base by at least one grooved connector.

1 17. The cover plate of claim 15, wherein each tab of the first set of removable tabs is
2 connected to the base by at least one connecting tab and each tab of the second set of
3 removable tabs is connected to the base by at least one connecting tab.

1 18. The cover plate of claim 13, wherein the first set aperture is shaped and positioned
2 to receive a single round electrical socket and wherein the second set aperture is shaped
3 and positioned to receive an electrical socket selected from the group consisting of a
4 socket of a duplex outlet and a ground-fault circuit interrupt socket.

1 19. The cover plate of claim 18, wherein the second set aperture is shaped and
2 positioned to receive a socket of a duplex outlet.

1 20. The cover plate of claim 18, wherein the second set aperture is shaped and
2 positioned to receive a ground-fault circuit interrupt socket.

1 21. The cover plate of claim 13, wherein the base further comprises a first side, a
2 second side that is substantially nonparallel with the first side, at least one removable
3 hinge member attached to the first side of the base, and at least one removable hinge
4 member attached to the second side of the base; and wherein the cover plate further
5 comprises a cover for mating with the base, the cover comprising a first side and a second
6 side corresponding respectively to the first side of the base and the second side of the
7 base, the cover further comprising at least one removable hinge member attached to the
8 first side of the cover and adapted to mate with the at least one removable hinge member
9 of the first side of the base, and at least one removable hinge member attached to the

10 second side of the cover and adapted to mate with the at least one removable hinge
11 member of the second side of the base.

1 22. The cover plate of claim 13, wherein the base defines a head aperture that is
2 shaped and positioned to receive the head of a fastener and a shank aperture that is shaped
3 and positioned to receive the shank of the fastener, but not the head of the fastener.

1 23. An electrical cover plate comprising:
2 a base comprising a planar member;
3 a first set of removable tabs comprising at least one removable tab, so that
4 removal of the first set of removable tabs forms a first set aperture that is shaped and
5 positioned to receive a single round electrical socket, the first set of removable tabs being
6 bounded by a first tab set periphery line;
7 a second set of removable tabs comprising at least one removable tab, so that
8 removal of the second set of removable tabs forms a second set aperture that is shaped
9 and positioned to receive a first electrical socket of a duplex outlet, the second set of
10 removable tabs being bounded by a second tab set periphery line;
11 a third set of removable tabs comprising at least one removable tab, so that
12 removal of the third set of removable tabs forms a third set aperture that is shaped and
13 positioned to receive a second electrical socket of the duplex outlet, the third set of
14 removable tabs being bounded by a third tab set periphery line; and
15 a fourth set of removable tabs comprising at least one removable tab, so that
16 removal of the fourth set of removable tabs forms a fourth set aperture that is shaped and
17 positioned to receive a ground-fault circuit interrupt socket, the fourth set of removable
18 tabs being bounded by a fourth tab set periphery line.

1 24. The cover plate of claim 23, wherein the first tab set periphery line and the second
2 tab set periphery line intersect and wherein the first tab set periphery line and the third tab
3 set periphery line intersect.

1 25. The cover plate of claim 24, wherein the first tab set periphery line and the fourth
2 tab set periphery line intersect.

1 26. The cover plate of claim 23, wherein each tab of the first set of removable tabs is
2 integral with the base and is connected to the base by at least one grooved connector, each
3 tab of the second set of removable tabs is integral with the base and is connected to the
4 base by at least one grooved connector, each tab of the third set of removable tabs is
5 integral with the base and is connected to the base by at least one grooved connector, and
6 each tab of the fourth set of removable tabs is integral with the base and is connected to
7 the base by at least one grooved connector.

1 27. The cover plate of claim 23, wherein each tab of the first set of removable tabs is
2 integral with the base and is connected to the base by at least one connecting tab, each tab
3 of the second set of removable tabs is integral with the base and is connected to the base
4 by at least one connecting tab, each tab of the third set of removable tabs is integral with
5 the base and is connected to the base by at least one connecting tab, and each tab of the
6 fourth set of removable tabs is integral with the base and is connected to the base by at
7 least one connecting tab.

1 28. The cover plate of claim 23, further comprising a fifth set of removable tabs
2 comprising at least one removable tab, so that removal of the fifth set of removable tabs
3 forms a fifth set aperture that is shaped and positioned to receive a light switch, the fifth
4 set of removable tabs being bounded by a fifth tab set periphery line.

1 29. The cover plate of claim 23, wherein the base further comprises a first side, a
2 second side that is substantially nonparallel with the first side, at least one removable
3 hinge member integral with the first side of the base, and at least one removable hinge
4 member integral with the second side of the base; and wherein the cover plate further
5 comprises a cover for mating with the base, the cover comprising a first side and a second
6 side corresponding respectively to the first side of the base and the second side of the

7 base, the cover further comprising at least one removable hinge member integral with the
8 first side of the cover and adapted to mate with the at least one removable hinge member
9 of the first side of the base, and at least one removable hinge member integral with the
10 second side of the cover and adapted to mate with the at least one removable hinge
11 member of the second side of the base.

1 30. The cover plate of claim 23, wherein the base defines a head aperture that is
2 shaped and positioned to receive the head of a fastener and a shank aperture that is shaped
3 and positioned to receive the shank of the fastener, but not the head of the fastener.
